

What is claimed is:

1. An implant for placement between vertebrae, comprising:  
two sidepieces joined together at one end and free at another  
end, each of the sidepieces being placeable against one of the  
vertebrae; and a device for vertical distraction of the  
sidepieces, outside surfaces of the sidepieces that face the  
vertebrae being configured to converge towards the free ends of  
the sidepieces in an initial position for the distraction.
2. The implant in accordance with claim 1, wherein the  
joined sidepieces are made from a single piece of material which  
is deformable for the distraction.
3. The implant in accordance with claim 2, wherein the  
joined sidepieces are made from a single piece of plastic.
4. The implant in accordance with claim 3, wherein the  
plastic is polyetheretherketone (PEEK).
5. The implant in accordance with claim 1, wherein the  
sidepieces have opposed inside surfaces that converge at least in

stages towards the free ends of the sidepieces.

6. The implant in accordance with claim 5, wherein the device for the vertical distraction includes a slider located between the sidepieces and placeable against the converging inside surfaces of the sidepieces.

7. The implant in accordance with claim 6, wherein, an opening is formed at an end of the implant opposite from the free ends of the sidepieces for passage of a tool, which operates the slider as needed.

8. The implant in accordance with claim 6, wherein the slider locks in an end position in which the sidepieces are spread.

9. The implant in accordance with claim 8, wherein the slider locks releasably in the end position.

10. The implant in accordance with claim 6, wherein the slider is flush with an outer surface of the implant in an end position in which the sidepieces are spread.

11. The implant in accordance with claim 1, wherein the implant is configured for placement in a lateral half-space between two vertebrae together with another implant, which shows mirror symmetry with respect to the first implant and is placeable in the other half-space.

12. The implant in accordance with claim 1, wherein the implant has a vertical opening formed as an oblong hole in which the slider is guided.